



NEWS RELEASE

**Media Contact:**

Sarah Ardalani  
Public Information Officer  
213-257-2000  
[SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov](mailto:SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov)  
Twitter: @LADAOOffice

Feb. 21, 2018

## **Two Sentenced to Prison for Sex Trafficking in Long Beach, Los Angeles**

Two men were sentenced today to prison for trafficking a woman and teen for the purpose of sex in 2015, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

On Jan. 24, Bobby Joe King, 25, pleaded no contest to a felony count of human trafficking to commit another crime in case NA103428.

The defendant also admitted a special allegation that the crime was committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, and in association with a criminal street gang with the specific intent to promote, further and assist in criminal conduct by gang members.

King's co-defendant, James Mark, 27, pleaded no contest to human trafficking of a minor for a commercial sex act.

At today's sentencing, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Richard R. Romero sentenced King to 23 years in state prison, while Mark received a six-year prison sentence. Both men were ordered by the judge to register as lifetime sex offenders.

Deputy District Attorney Troy Davis of the Victim Impact Program, who prosecuted the case, said King and Mark are documented gang members.

The prosecutor said in 2015, a 20-year-old woman encountered King online and several months later met up with the defendant in Long Beach. During their meeting, King made the woman work for him as a prostitute, the prosecutor said.

Meanwhile, Mark met a 15-year-old girl at a Los Angeles park, displayed a gun and forced the teenager to work for him as a prostitute, according to the prosecutor.

The human sex trafficking case was investigated by the Long Beach Police Department.

## **About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.